

ABSTRACT

A method of developing latent fingerprints involves the preparation of an 8-quinolinol complex by mixing a solution of 8-hydroxyquinoline or a derivative with a complexing reagent such as a metal salt. The solution is then applied to a porous substrate, such as paper, containing the latent fingerprint where the soluble complex is adsorbed onto the surface of the latent print and precipitates thereon. The unadsorbed solution is then removed from the substrate allowing the precipitate to highlight the latent image. The choice of the complexing reagent will determine the color of the precipitate and whether or not it is fluorescent.